(a) whether it is a fact that patriotic songs and programmes get a lesser time on Doordarshan and Radio as compared to other sundry programmes like feature films, film lyrics, dance and drama;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of time devoted in patriotic programmes on the whole in a month; and

(c) whether Government propose to reschedule and redesign the Doordarshan and Radio programmes to ensure greater time to patriotic theme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) No Sir. Patriotic songs and programmes are adequately covered by Doordarshan and Radio. Patriotic theme is a major criteria in the selection and broadcast of programmes.

(b) Such information is not kept centrally in a compiled form.

(c) The rescheduling and redesigning of the programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan is done on a continuing basis keeping in view national priority, the viewer's/listener's interest and communication needs.

Pollution free battery propelled public transport

1087. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have experimented with the use of battery propelled public conveyance to eradicate the pollution in Delhi caused by public transport;

(b) If so, what is the outcome of such experiments; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up this project on large scale and use/introduce pollution free public transport system in all metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) has been operating 101 battery-operated vehicles in Delhi, as an experimental demonstration programme. These vehicles ply on different routes from 5 charging stations. These vehicles have a limited range after each recharge and are also prone to breakdowns due to overloading. There is no proposal at present to introduce such projects in other metropolitan cities.

Meeting of Newsprint Advisory Committee

1088. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of Newsprint Advisory Committee has been held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held;

(c) whether some suggestions have been received by Government during the meeting;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government proposes to take to implement such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROARCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Details of discussions held, suggestions received during the meeting and action proposed to be taken are contained in the Annexure.

[See Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 44]

केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग परिसर, वसन्त विहार, नई दिल्ली में डाक घर और सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घर की सुविधा

1089. श्री रामचन्द्र विकल : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग परिसर, वसन्त विहार, नई दिल्ली में न तो डाकघर और न ही सार्वजनिक टेलीफ़ोन घर की सुविधा उपलब्ध है, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार की लोक हित में वहां पर इन सुविधाओं के उपलब्ध कराने की कोई योजना है, यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री, साथ में संचार मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री दिनेश गोस्वामी) : (क) जी हां। वसंतविहार स्थित केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग परिसर में डाकघर खोलना निर्धारित मानदण्डों के अनुसार औचित्यपूर्ण नहीं है क्योंकि यह परिसर वसंतविहार के दूसरे डाकघर से मात्र एक किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है । हाल ही में निर्मित होने के कारण वहां पर अभी तक सार्वजनिक टेलीफ़ोन सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गई है ।

(ख) विभाग, केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग परिसर से आधा किलोमीटर से कम दूरी पर स्थित बसंत लोक में डाकघर भवन का निर्माण कर रहा है । इस नए भवन में बसंत विहार—II डाकघर को शिफ्ट किए जाने की संभावना है और जब यह शिफ्ट हो जाएगा तो केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग परिसर से यहां तक आसानी से पहुंचा जा सकेगा । जहां तक पी सी ओ का सम्बन्ध है यह सुविधा जल्दी ही सुलभ कराए जाने की सम्भावना है।

Copies of Satanic Versesin Delhi

1090. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to stae:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Cyclostyled copies of 'Satanic Verses' sold in Delhi in the Daily Bombay dated the March 7, 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No such sale of cyclostyled copies of the banned book 'Satanic Verses' has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Poor reception of Urdu Service Programme of A.I.R. in the Country

1091. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Urdu Service of All India Radio is mainly an external service ;

(h) whether it is also a fact that the programmes of this service are also extremely popular in the country ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the reception of programmes of this service inside the country is extremely poor; and